

HATE CRIME

DEFINITION

A hate crime, also known as a bias crime, is a criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

Background

In response to mounting national concern over crimes motivated by bias, Congress signed into law on April 23, 1990, the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (the Act). This law required the Attorney General to collect data “about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.” The Attorney General delegated the responsibilities of developing the procedures for and managing the implementation of the collection of hate crime data to the Director of the FBI, who in turn assigned the tasks to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In September 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act amended the Act to include both physical and mental disabilities as potential bias factors, and the actual collection of disability-bias data began in January 1997. Additionally, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 mandated that hate crime data collection become a permanent part of the UCR Program.

Rather than create new crime categories, Program developers decided that collecting additional information about offenses already being reported to the UCR Program would fulfill the directives addressed in the Act. Consequently, hate crime data are collected by capturing information for traditional offenses motivated by the offender’s bias. Included are the offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault; simple assault; intimidation; robbery; burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson; and destruction, damage, or vandalism of property.

A hate crime abstract based on the data received from law enforcement agencies that provided 1 to 12 months of hate crime reports during 2000 follows. More detailed information concerning the characteristics of hate crime can be found in the annual UCR publication *Hate Crime Statistics*.

Nature

In 2000, there were 8,152 hate crime incidents reported to the FBI. The incidents involved 9,524 separate offenses, 10,021 victims, and 7,642 known offenders. Of the single-bias incidents reported, 4,368 were motivated by racial bias; 1,483 by religious bias; 1,330 by sexual-orientation bias; 927 by ethnicity/national origin bias; 36 by disability bias. Additionally, 8 incidents involved multiple biases. (See Table 2.33.)

Racial bias represented the largest percentage of single bias-motivated offenses in 2000. Of the reported offenses, 54.8 percent were motivated by racial bias, 16.5 percent by religious bias, 16.0 percent by sexual-orientation bias,

12.4 percent by ethnic/national origin bias, and 0.4 percent by disability bias. Seventeen offenses were associated with multiple-bias incidents. (See Table 2.33 and Chart 2.19.)

Considering victims of single-bias motivated hate crimes, a total of 54.3 percent of victims were attacked because of their race, with bias against blacks accounting for 35.6 percent of all hate crime victims. (See Table 2.33.)

Table 2.33

Number of Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 2000

Bias motivation	Incidents	Offenses	Victims ¹	Known offenders ²
Total	8,152	9,524	10,021	7,642
Single-Bias Incidents	8,144	9,507	10,003	7,632
Race:	4,368	5,206	5,435	4,498
Anti-White	886	1,061	1,091	1,182
Anti-Black	2,904	3,433	3,562	2,832
Anti-American Indian/ Alaskan Native	57	62	64	58
Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander	281	317	339	273
Anti-Multi-Racial Group	240	333	379	153
Religion:	1,483	1,568	1,711	590
Anti-Jewish	1,119	1,172	1,280	417
Anti-Catholic	56	61	63	33
Anti-Protestant	59	62	62	23
Anti-Islamic	28	33	36	20
Anti-Other Religious Group	173	188	211	78
Anti-Multi-Religious Group	44	46	52	18
Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism/etc.	4	6	7	1
Sexual Orientation:	1,330	1,517	1,589	1,471
Anti-Male Homosexual	925	1,052	1,089	1,112
Anti-Female Homosexual	181	213	230	173
Anti-Homosexual	182	210	226	153
Anti-Heterosexual	22	22	24	18
Anti-Bisexual	20	20	20	15
Ethnicity/National Origin:	927	1,180	1,232	1,037
Anti-Hispanic	567	745	773	711
Anti-Other Ethnicity/ National Origin	360	435	459	326
Disability:	36	36	36	36
Anti-Physical	20	20	20	22
Anti-Mental	16	16	16	14
Multiple-Bias Incidents³	8	17	18	10

¹ The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

² The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

³ A *multiple-bias incident* is any hate crime in which two or more offense types were committed as a result of two or more bias motivations.

Of the 10,021 victims of hate crime, 62.1 percent were targets of crimes against persons in 2000. (See Table 2.34.)

The largest portion of the hate crime offenses, 65.3 percent, reported to law enforcement were attributed to crimes against persons. Thirty-four percent accounted for crimes against property, and 0.6 percent represented crimes against society. Of the crimes against persons, intimidation occurred in 52.9 percent of the offenses, simple assault in 26.0 percent, and aggravated assault in 20.5 percent. The most frequently reported offense of crimes against property was damage, destruction, or vandalism of property, accounting for 85.3 percent of that category. (See Table 2.34.)

Overall, intimidation was the most frequently reported offense. Intimidation accounted for 34.6 percent of the total, followed by damage, destruction, or vandalism of property, 29.0 percent; simple assault, 17.0 percent; and aggravated assault, 13.4 percent. (See Table 2.34.)

Table 2.34

**Number of Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders
by Offense, 2000**

Offense	Offenses	Victims ¹	Known offenders ²
Total	9,524	10,021	7,642
Crimes against persons:	6,223	6,223	6,266³
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	19	19	26
Forcible rape	4	4	5
Aggravated assault	1,274	1,274	1,734
Simple assault	1,616	1,616	2,062
Intimidation	3,294	3,294	2,421
Other ⁴	16	16	18
Crimes against property:	3,242	3,739	1,653³
Robbery	139	160	327
Burglary	138	158	76
Larceny-theft	114	121	81
Motor vehicle theft	11	12	10
Arson	52	70	48
Destruction/damage/vandalism	2,766	3,193	1,092
Other ⁴	22	25	19
Crimes against society⁴	59	59	78³

¹ The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

² The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

³ The actual number of known offenders is 7,642. (See Table 2.33.) Some offenders, however, may be responsible for more than one offense and are, therefore, counted more than once in this table.

⁴ Includes additional offenses collected in NIBRS.

Law enforcement agencies reported 7,642 known offenders in conjunction with the 8,152 incidents recorded in 2000. (See Table 2.33.) Of the known offenders, 6,266 were associated with crimes against persons, 1,653 were linked to crimes against property, and 78 were connected with crimes against society. The single most reported offense, intimidation, was committed by 38.6 percent of known offenders involved in crimes against persons. (See Table 2.34.) By race, 64.2 percent of the known offenders were white, 18.9 percent were black, 9.7 percent were of unknown races, and 7.2 percent were of other race categories. (See Table 2.35.)

Table 2.35

**Number of Known Offenders
by Race, 2000**

Known offender's race ¹	
Total	7,642
White	4,905
Black	1,441
American Indian/Alaskan Native	49
Asian/Pacific Islander	109
Multi-Racial Group	393
Unknown Race	745

¹ The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

Law Enforcement Participation

Hate crime data for 2000 were supplied by 11,690 law enforcement agencies in 48 states and the District of Columbia. These agencies represented approximately 84.2 percent of the Nation's population, nearly 237 million people. (See Table 2.40.) Of the participating agencies, 83.8 percent reported that no hate crimes occurred in their jurisdiction, and the remaining 16.2 percent reported that at least one hate crime occurred.

The law enforcement community has recognized that authoritative information is crucial to developing effective measures to deal with bias-motivated crime. Though reports from these agencies are not sufficient to allow valid national or regional measures of the volume and types of crimes motivated by hate, they offer perspectives on the general nature of hate crime occurrences.

FIGURE 2.19

BIAS-MOTIVATED OFFENSES

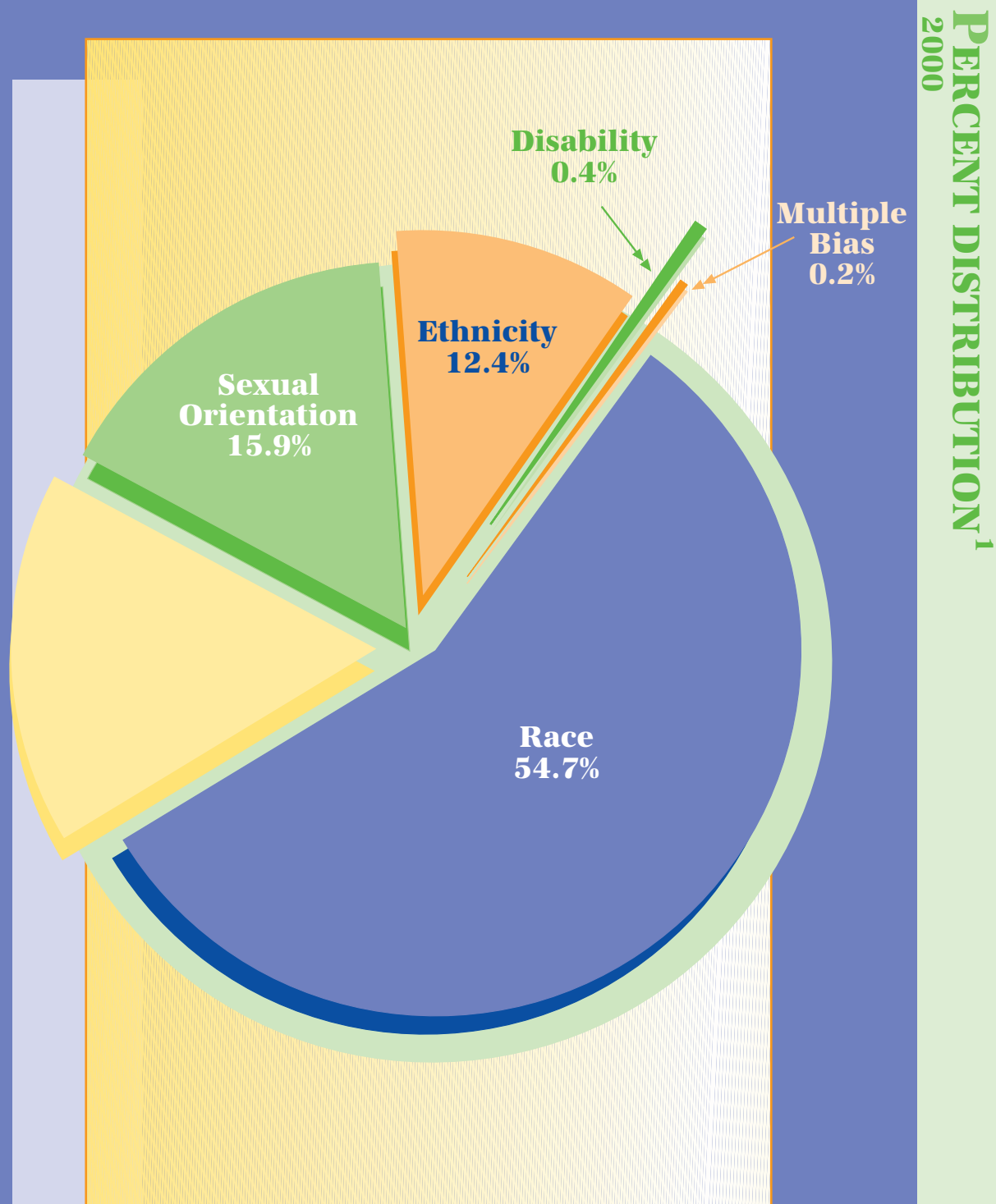


Table 2.36

**Agency Hate Crime Reporting
by State, 2000**

Participating states	Number of participating agencies	Population covered	Agencies submitting incident reports	Total number of incidents reported
Total	11,690	236,929,512	1,895	8,152
Alaska	1	260,900	1	4
Arizona	88	4,606,625	22	240
Arkansas	4	77,190	3	3
California	722	33,869,172	259	1,943
Colorado	234	4,300,597	34	101
Connecticut	97	3,316,062	58	151
Delaware	52	783,600	9	34
District of Columbia	1	572,059	1	5
Florida	491	15,955,498	107	240
Georgia	80	1,077,028	4	35
Idaho	118	1,278,863	26	45
Illinois	46	4,463,308	45	183
Indiana	166	4,415,055	31	106
Iowa	220	2,809,355	15	33
Kansas	1	339,907	1	42
Kentucky	317	3,351,405	38	73
Louisiana	174	3,827,857	8	12
Maine	181	1,273,365	9	28
Maryland	146	5,294,196	33	217
Massachusetts	341	6,282,763	97	458
Michigan	620	9,818,683	156	425
Minnesota	313	4,917,158	55	169
Mississippi	78	1,219,754	1	2
Missouri	186	3,843,304	26	70
Montana	102	902,195	8	19
Nebraska	202	1,360,827	6	17
Nevada	37	1,998,257	8	85
New Hampshire	110	678,452	20	32
New Jersey	564	8,414,350	241	652
New Mexico	43	1,076,413	3	15
New York	539	18,973,360	39	697
North Carolina	205	4,485,728	14	31
North Dakota	80	580,299	5	5
Ohio	348	7,469,352	49	240
Oklahoma	301	3,448,945	24	80
Oregon	171	3,411,457	29	142
Pennsylvania	933	11,464,718	32	141
Rhode Island	48	1,048,319	10	48
South Carolina	352	4,009,034	17	33
South Dakota	121	754,844	4	7
Tennessee	422	5,685,152	72	230
Texas	942	20,613,237	72	286
Utah	127	2,233,169	28	71
Vermont	43	507,533	14	19
Virginia	384	6,981,101	59	325
Washington	236	5,352,495	57	242
West Virginia	268	1,669,624	21	60
Wisconsin	368	5,363,675	22	47
Wyoming	67	493,272	2	9

